

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

The FCC voted to allow media ownership to expand while knowing full well that the vast majority of U.S. citizens were against such a move. Michael Powell and the FCC acted in the same manner as the Bush administration, in that they completely ignore any outside influence or ideas. It is the duty of any governmental branch or agency to recognize and react to the views and ideas of the electorate.

Shame on Michael Powell for allowing companies like Sinclair to abuse the airwaves with pro-Bush garbage. The country is tired of his sleazy tactics that favor Bush and bow to the throne of big business.

Thank you.